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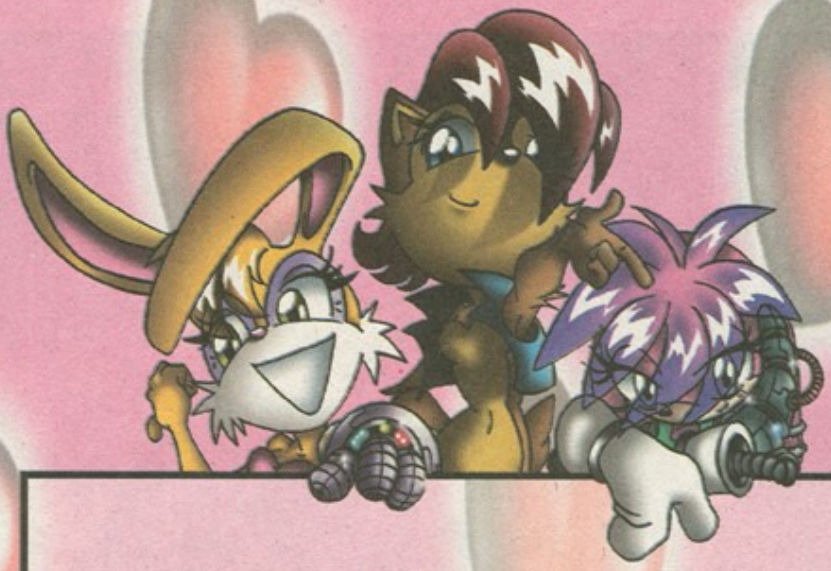
SONIC
SUPER SPECIAL
TM
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
GIANT 48 PAGES
HEY!
WHOSE COMIC IS THIS ANYWAY!?
BVRP!
Butt-Ugly Rat Productions



GIRLS!

"Princess Sally: Ascension"
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"Hershey: Solo"
Illustrations and lettering by Ken Penders

"Lupe: Family"
Illustrations by Colleen Doran
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"Bunnie Rabbot: Upgrade"
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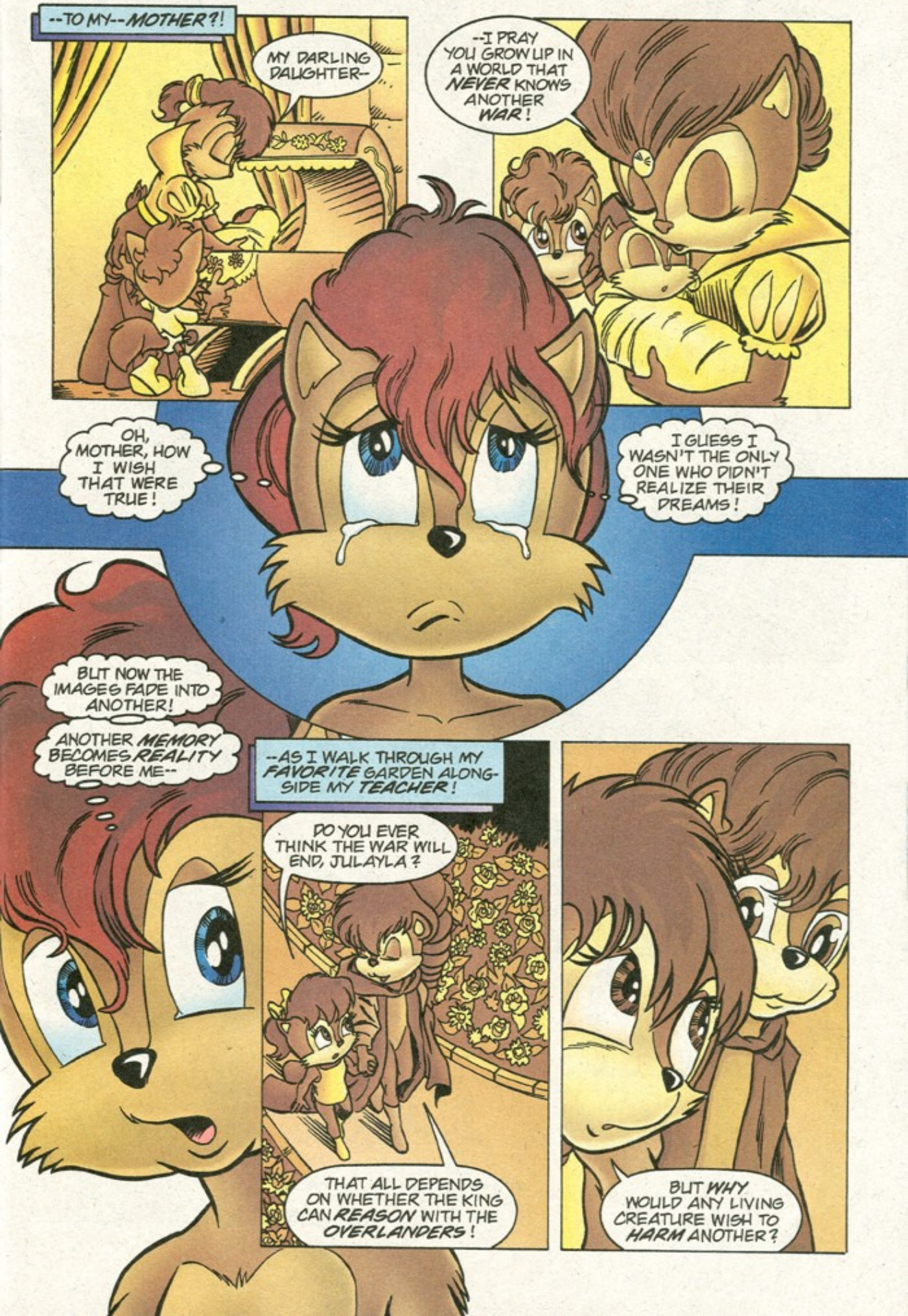
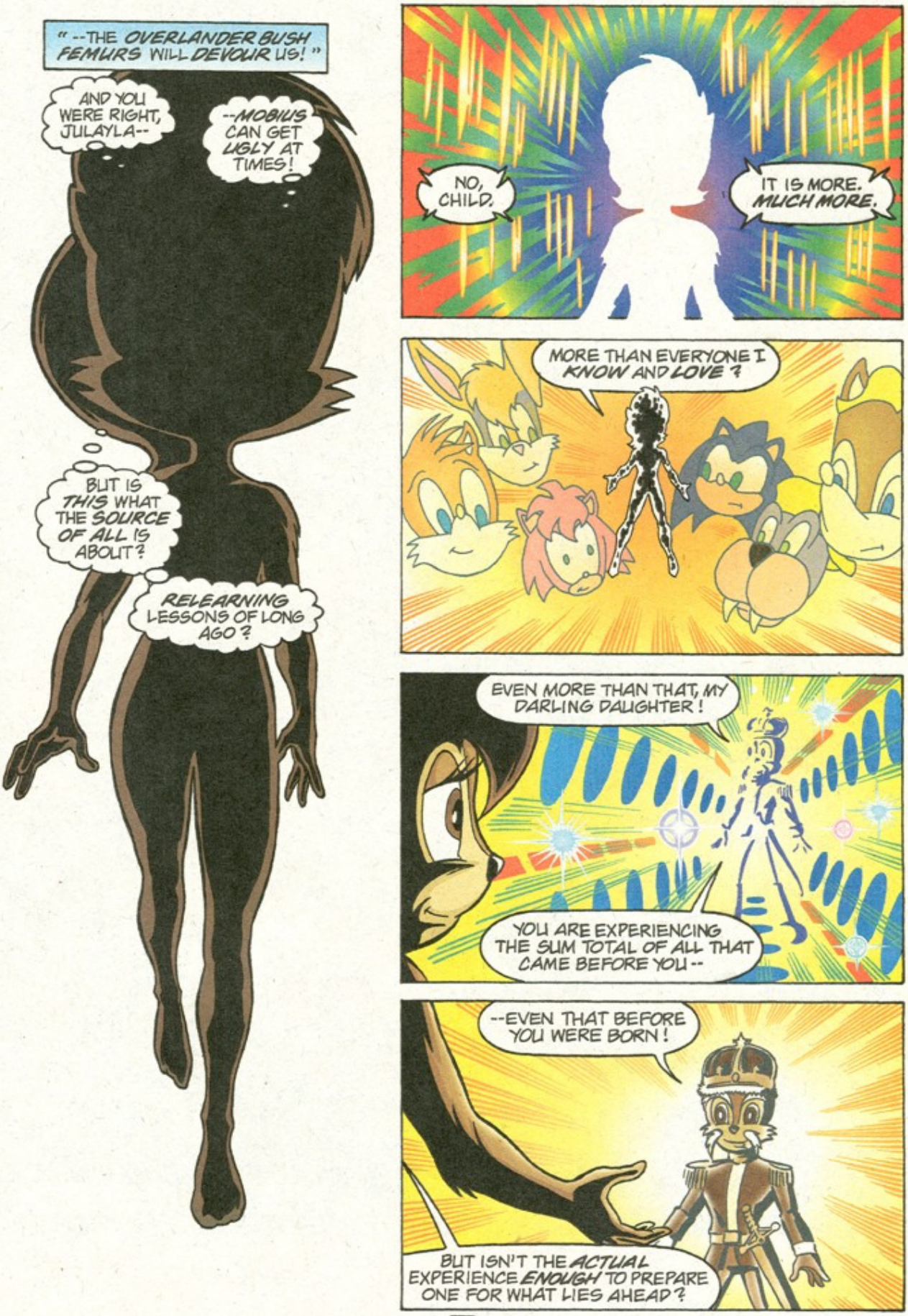
EKLUND

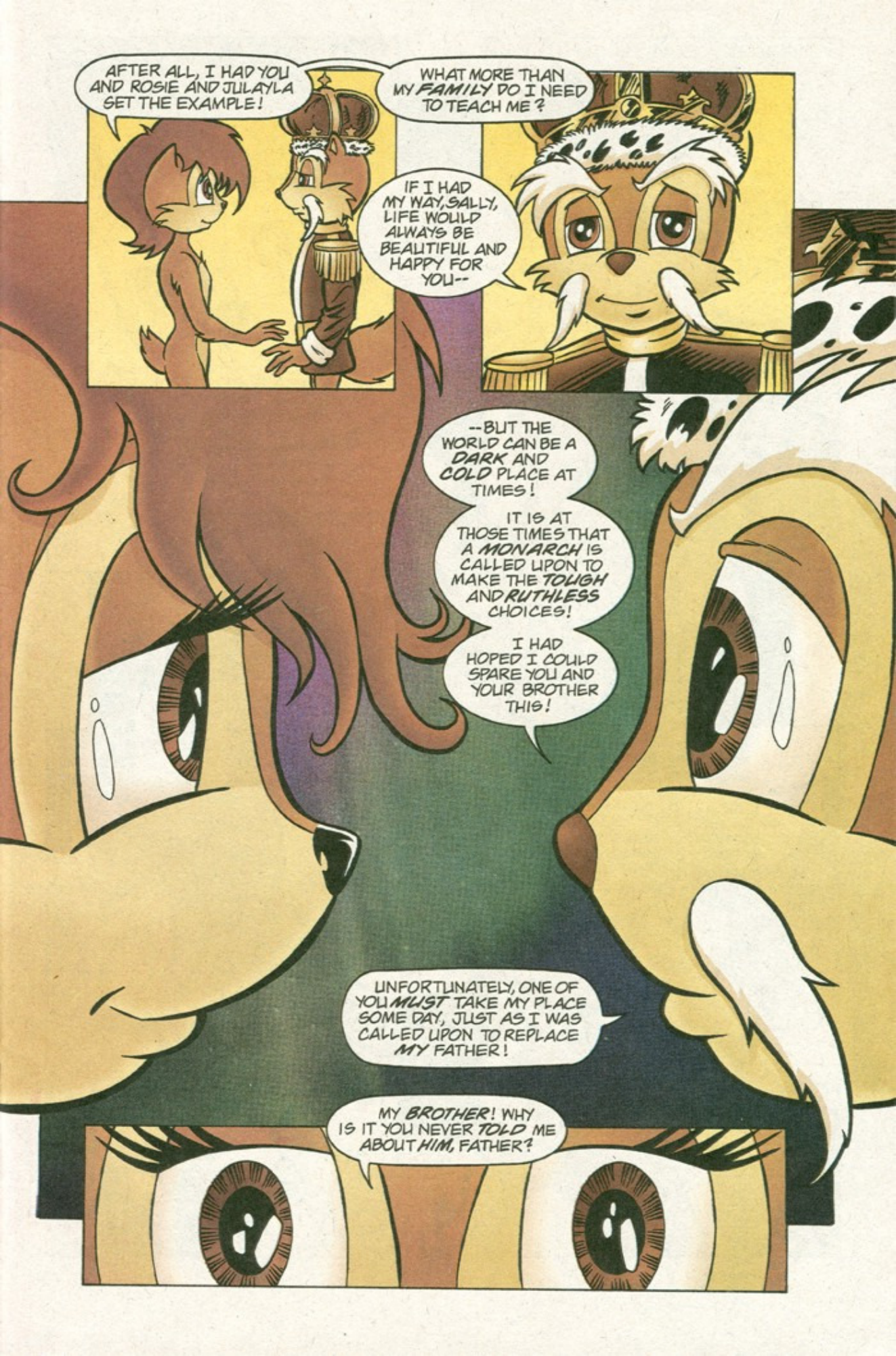
PRINCESS Sally in ASCENSION
ALL MY LIFE I NEVER HAD A CHOICE.
I WAS BORN HEIR TO THE THRONE OF ACORN AND TAUGHT TO BE A QUEEN FROM DAY ONE.
HAVING RECENTLY DISCOVERED I HAVE A BROTHER, I FOUND I WAS NO LONGER CHARGED WITH CONTINUING THE LINE OF SUCCESSION.
HOWEVER, ELIAS FELT OTHERWISE, AND OFFERED UP THAT WHICH BY ALL RIGHTS WAS HIS.
HAVING BEEN GIVEN A CHOICE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE, I KNEW I HAD TO DECIDE--
-- WHAT REALLY MATTERED TO ME.
NOTE: THIS STORY TAKES PLACE BEFORE THE EVENTS IN SONIC #74 -- EDITOR.
1

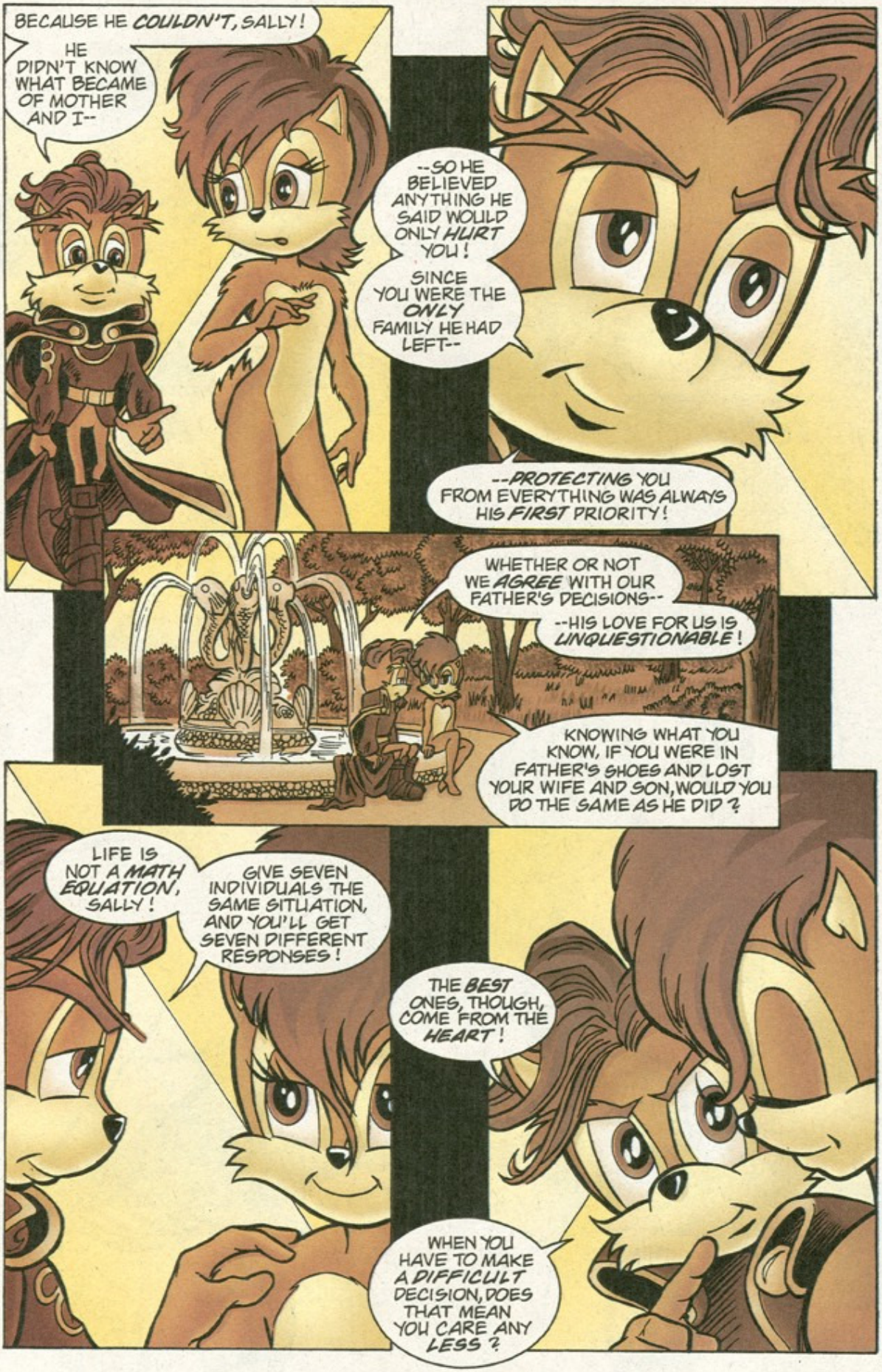
AFTER A MOMENT'S HESITATION, I STEPPED INTO THE POOL--
--DESCENDING DEEPER--
--BECOMING ONE--
--WITH THE SOURCE OF ALL!
IF THIS IS WHAT YOU TRULY WISH FOR, SALLY--
--THEN YOU HAVE MY UNCONDITIONAL SUPPORT--
--NO MATTER WHAT FATHER MAY SAY!
IT WAS MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN I COULD EVER HAVE IMAGINED!
I COULD FEEL MYSELF DRAWN TO THE LIGHT--
2


--TO MY--MOTHER?!
MY DARLING DAUGHTER--
--I PRAY YOU GROW UP IN A WORLD THAT NEVER KNOWS ANOTHER WAR!
OH, MOTHER, HOW I WISH THAT WERE TRUE!
I GUESS I WASN'T THE ONLY ONE WHO DIDN'T REALIZE THEIR DREAMS!
BUT NOW THE IMAGES FADE INTO ANOTHER!
ANOTHER MEMORY BECOMES REALITY BEFORE ME--
--AS I WALK THROUGH MY FAVORITE GARDEN ALONGSIDE MY TEACHER!
DO YOU EVER THINK THE WAR WILL END, JULAYLA?
THAT ALL DEPENDS ON WHETHER THE KING CAN REASON WITH THE OVERLANDERS!
BUT WHY WOULD ANY LIVING CREATURE WISH TO HARM ANOTHER?

YOU WISH TO KNOW WHY, CHILD?
LOOK UP IN THAT TREE! SEE THE BUSH FEMUR?
YES! IT SEEMS TO BE LOOKING FOR SOMETHING!
IT'S STUDYING THAT GOLDEN WINGSPANNER EATING THE WORM YOU SEE BEFORE YOU!
HOW COME?
RRRA!
JUST WATCH!
GROSS!!!! IT ATE THE WINGSPANNER!
AND WHY NOT? NATURE HAD INTENDED IT SO!
SO WHAT HAS THIS TO DO WITH US AND THE OVERLANDERS?
WE'RE THE GOLDEN WINGSPANNERS, SALLY, AND IF WE DON'T FIGHT BACK--


"--THE OVERLANDER BUSH FEMURS WILL DEVOUR US!"
AND YOU WERE RIGHT, JULAYLA--
--MOBIUS CAN GET UGLY AT TIMES!
BUT IS THIS WHAT THE SOURCE OF ALL IS ABOUT?
RELEARNING LESSONS OF LONG AGO?
NO, CHILD.
IT IS MORE. MUCH MORE.
MORE THAN EVERYONE I KNOW AND LOVE?
EVEN MORE THAN THAT, MY DARLING DAUGHTER!
YOU ARE EXPERIENCING THE SUM TOTAL OF ALL THAT CAME BEFORE YOU--
--EVEN THAT BEFORE YOU WERE BORN!
BUT ISN'T THE ACTUAL EXPERIENCE ENOUGH TO PREPARE ONE FOR WHAT LIES AHEAD?


AFTER ALL, I HAD YOU AND ROSIE AND JULAYLA SET THE EXAMPLE!
WHAT MORE THAN MY FAMILY DO I NEED TO TEACH ME?
IF I HAD MY WAY, SALLY, LIFE WOULD ALWAYS BE BEAUTIFUL AND HAPPY FOR YOU--
--BUT THE WORLD CAN BE A DARK AND COLD PLACE AT TIMES!
IT IS AT THOSE TIMES THAT A MONARCH IS CALLED UPON TO MAKE THE TOUGH AND RUTHLESS CHOICES!
I HAD HOPED I COULD SPARE YOU AND YOUR BROTHER THIS!
UNFORTUNATELY, ONE OF YOU MUST TAKE MY PLACE SOME DAY, JUST AS I WAS CALLED UPON TO REPLACE MY FATHER!
MY BROTHER! WHY IS IT YOU NEVER TOLD ME ABOUT HIM, FATHER?


BECAUSE HE COULDN'T, SALLY!
HE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT BECAME OF MOTHER AND I--
--SO HE BELIEVED ANYTHING HE SAID WOULD ONLY HURT YOU!
SINCE YOU WERE THE ONLY FAMILY HE HAD LEFT--
--PROTECTING YOU FROM EVERYTHING WAS ALWAYS HIS FIRST PRIORITY!
WHETHER OR NOT WE AGREE WITH OUR FATHER'S DECISIONS--
--HIS LOVE FOR US IS UNQUESTIONABLE!
KNOWING WHAT YOU KNOW, IF YOU WERE IN FATHER'S SHOES AND LOST YOUR WIFE AND SON, WOULD YOU DO THE SAME AS HE DID?
LIFE IS NOT A MATH EQUATION, SALLY!
GIVE SEVEN INDIVIDUALS THE SAME SITUATION, AND YOU'LL GET SEVEN DIFFERENT RESPONSES!
THE BEST ONES, THOUGH, COME FROM THE HEART!
WHEN YOU HAVE TO MAKE A DIFFICULT DECISION, DOES THAT MEAN YOU CARE ANY LESS?

I SUPPOSE NOT.
AND NEITHER DOES OUR FATHER.

WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
THAT MY FATHER IS ALWAYS RIGHT?

YOUR FATHER IS ONE WITH THE SOURCE, FULLY AWARE OF THE CONSEQUENCES OF EACH ACTION HE TAKES!
:GASP: THAT'S--THAT'S ME AS THE QUEEN!
NOTHING THAT ONE WHO IS BOUND WITH THE SOURCE DOES IS EVER DONE LIGHTLY!

ARE YOU SAYING MY FATHER IS AWARE OF THINGS TO COME?
AS YOU WOULD BE-- SHOULD YOU COMPLETE THE CYCLE!
BEHOLD-- MOBIUS-- ALMOST TWENTY YEARS LATER...

"YET ANOTHER WAR BEGINS..."
BI OOOM!
GET OUT OF HERE, SAL!
TAKE THE KIDS AND RUN!
BUT, SONIC--
BAAM!
KRAAAK!
THERE'S NO TIME! MOVE!
IF ANYTHING SHOULD HAPPEN TO HIM...!
HE'S RIGHT, THOUGH--
--THE KIDS COME FIRST!
COME ALONG, CHILDREN. WE HAVE TO GO!
GO WHERE, MOM?
SOMEPLACE SAFE!
SOMEWHERE FAR FROM HERE!
WHAT ABOUT FATHER?

HE'LL CATCH UP TO US! NOW GET INSIDE!
SHUUUUUM!
"WHAT ABOUT SONIC?"
YOU HAVEN'T COMPLETED THE CYCLE, CHILD!
YOU EITHER SEE IT THROUGH OR FOREVER FORFEIT YOUR BIRTHRIGHT!
YOU MEAN IT'S ALL OR NOTHING?
THAT IS CORRECT.
I GUESS THINGS WEREN'T MEANT TO BE, THEN!
I'M NOT SURE I WANT TO KNOW EVERYTHING IN ORDER TO BE QUEEN!
YOU REALIZE THAT ONCE YOU MAKE YOUR DECISION--
--THERE'S NO TURNING BACK?

SALLY?
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
MAYBE BONDING WITH THE SOURCE OF ALL WAS THE RIGHT THING FOR MY FATHER AND ALL OF MY ANCESTORS WHO CAME BEFORE--
--BUT IT WASN'T THE RIGHT PATH FOR ME!
WELL?
I KNOW YOU BELIEVE I DESERVE TO SUCCEED OUR FATHER--
--BUT I CAN'T FOLLOW THE PATH THAT OTHERS HAVE. I HAVE TO FIND MY OWN WAY!
TAKE CARE, MY BROTHER!
FOR ONCE, THE CHOICE WAS MINE.
I HAD DECIDED TO FOLLOW MY HEART, AND I CAN LIVE WITH THAT.
End

IT'S STILL NOT TOO LATE, HERSH!
YOU CAN TAKE POINT WHILE I GO CRAWLING AROUND THE DRAGON'S DEN INSTEAD!
I CAN DO THIS, COMMANDER!
GETTING THROUGH THE DUCTWORK WILL BE A LOT SMOOTHER FOR ME THAN YOU!
BESIDES, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO SUPERVISE US ON EVERY MISSION!
SOONER OR LATER, YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO ORDER US TO GO...
HERSHEY
SOLO
1

I CAN SEE IT'S USELESS TO ARGUE WITH YOU!
JUST MAKE SURE YOU RETURN IN ONE PIECE!
" -- SO HERE'S HOPING NOTHING DOES!"
WELL, HERE GOES, GIRL --
I HAVE NINE LIVES, COMMANDER!
WHAT COULD GO SO WRONG?
EVERYTHING --
IT'S SHOW TIME!
CAREFUL, HERSH!
WHUMF!
YOU DON'T WANT TO DRAW ATTENTION AFTER MAKING IT SO FAR!

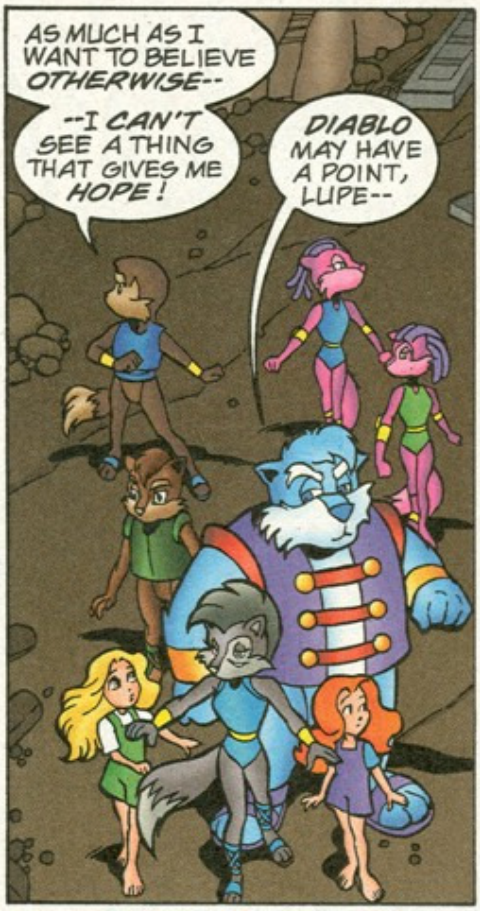
ESPECIALLY THE EGG MAN'S!
PROBABLY DUMB LUCK HE DIDN'T HEAR ME LAND!
AND SPEAK OF THE DEVIL --
-- HE'S THE MAJOR OBSTACLE STANDING BETWEEN ME AND THE MISSION OBJECTIVE!
IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN, GENERAL D'COOLETTE!
I TRUST EVERYTHING IS BACK TO STATUS QUO?
NOT QUITE, SIR!
A CERTAIN RADICAL IS DOING HIS BEST TO FRUSTRATE US!
I'LL HAVE REINFORCEMENTS DISPATCHED IMMEDIATELY!
I NEED A DISTRACTION TO LURE HIM AWAY FROM THERE!
COMMANDER, I COULD REALLY GO FOR A SUCKER RIGHT ABOUT NOW!
READ YOU LOUD AND CLEAR, HERSH!
GET READY!

Ka-BOOM!
KLIK!
SO THE RODENTS ARE GETTING FRISKY, ARE THEY?
DELTA TWO AND NINE!
ROGER!
WILCO!
TAKE A SQUADRON OF SHADOWBOTS AND GO PUT OUT THE FIRE!
AND SHOULD YOU ENCOUNTER THAT WRETCHED HEDGEHOG SONIC --
-- BRING HIM TO ME!
THAT SURE DID THE TRICK -- NOT!
SO WHAT NOW?
HMMM...
WHAT IF THE THREAT WERE MORE -- LOCAL?

I JUST HAVE TO CROSS MY FINGERS THIS PLAN DOESN'T BLOW UP IN MY FACE --
-- BOTH FIGURATIVELY AND LITERALLY!
WITH THE PRESS OF A BUTTON, THE HAND MINE IS SET --
-- AND ON ITS WAY!
TUB!
WHAT'S THAT?
COULD IT BE THE RODENTS ARE FAR BOLDER THAN I FIRST THOUGHT?
IF THAT'S THE CASE --
-- THIS MAY WARRANT MY CLOSE, PERSONAL ATTENTION!
I'M IN LUCK! HE DIDN'T ACTIVATE THE SECURITY CODES!
NOW ACCESSING THE DATABASE IN REGARDS TO VALDEZ AND --

OH, NO -- !
EVEN LEARNING VALDEZ HAD DIED WAS CERTAINLY MORE PREFERABLE --
-- THAN SEEING HIM ROBOTICIZED!
ABOUT TIME SHE GOT OUT!
ANOTHER COUPLE OF MINUTES, AND I'D HAVE GONE IN!
WELL?
MISSION ACCOMPLISHED, COMMANDER!
WE DEFINITELY LOST VALDEZ --
" -- BUT I LEFT ROBOTNIK A MESSAGE -- "
THAT WAS USELESS!
NO SIGN OF TROUBLE ANYWHERE!
"-- THAT PAYBACK WOULD BE COMING --"
TICK...TICK...TICK...
THAT'S ODD! I HEAR A SOUND --
BOOM!
" -- NEXT TIME!"
6

LUPE AND THE WOLF PACK IN FAMILY
SOMEWHERE OUT IN THE WESTERN FLATS...
RETURNING HOME MAY NOT HAVE BEEN THE WISEST OF CHOICES, SENORITA!
ALL THAT REMAIN ARE THE DEVASTATED RUINS OF OUR ONCE PROUD CITY FROM THE DESPICABLE ROBOTNIK!
BE THAT AS IT MAY, REYNARD--
--WHILE WE MAY NOT FIND OUR LOVED ONES HERE--
--THERE'S ALWAYS THE POSSIBILITY OF FINDING OUT WHERE THEY'VE GONE!


AS MUCH AS I WANT TO BELIEVE OTHERWISE--
--I CAN'T SEE A THING THAT GIVES ME HOPE!
DIABLO MAY HAVE A POINT, LUPE--

-- THERE MAY NOT BE ANYTHING LEFT FOR US TO FIND!
DON'T EVEN THINK IT, CANUS!

WE CAN PRESS ON WITH OUR SEARCH, SENORITA--
--BUT I, TOO, AM BEGINNING TO FEEL IT WILL ALL BE IN VAIN!

I CAN'T BLAME ANY OF YOU FOR FEELING THE WAY YOU DO!
BUT I KNOW LOBO--
--AND I KNOW HE WOULD NEVER GO WITHOUT LEAVING BEHIND SOME SIGN FOR ME!

FWOOOOOSH!
2

B-TUUM!
GAS!
EVERYBODY!! HOLD--YOUR--NOSE...

SPLASH!!!
WHERE THE HECK ARE WE?
SOME PLACE WHERE THE PLUMBING IS IN DESPERATE NEED OF REPAIR WOULD BE MY FIRST GUESS!
WHILE I CAN APPRECIATE THE NEED FOR LEVITY AT A TIME LIKE THIS, I THINK WE'RE HAVING COMPANY!
THAT SOUNDS LIKE METAL CLANGING ALONG THE CONCRETE FLOOR!
A SWATBOT, PERHAPS?

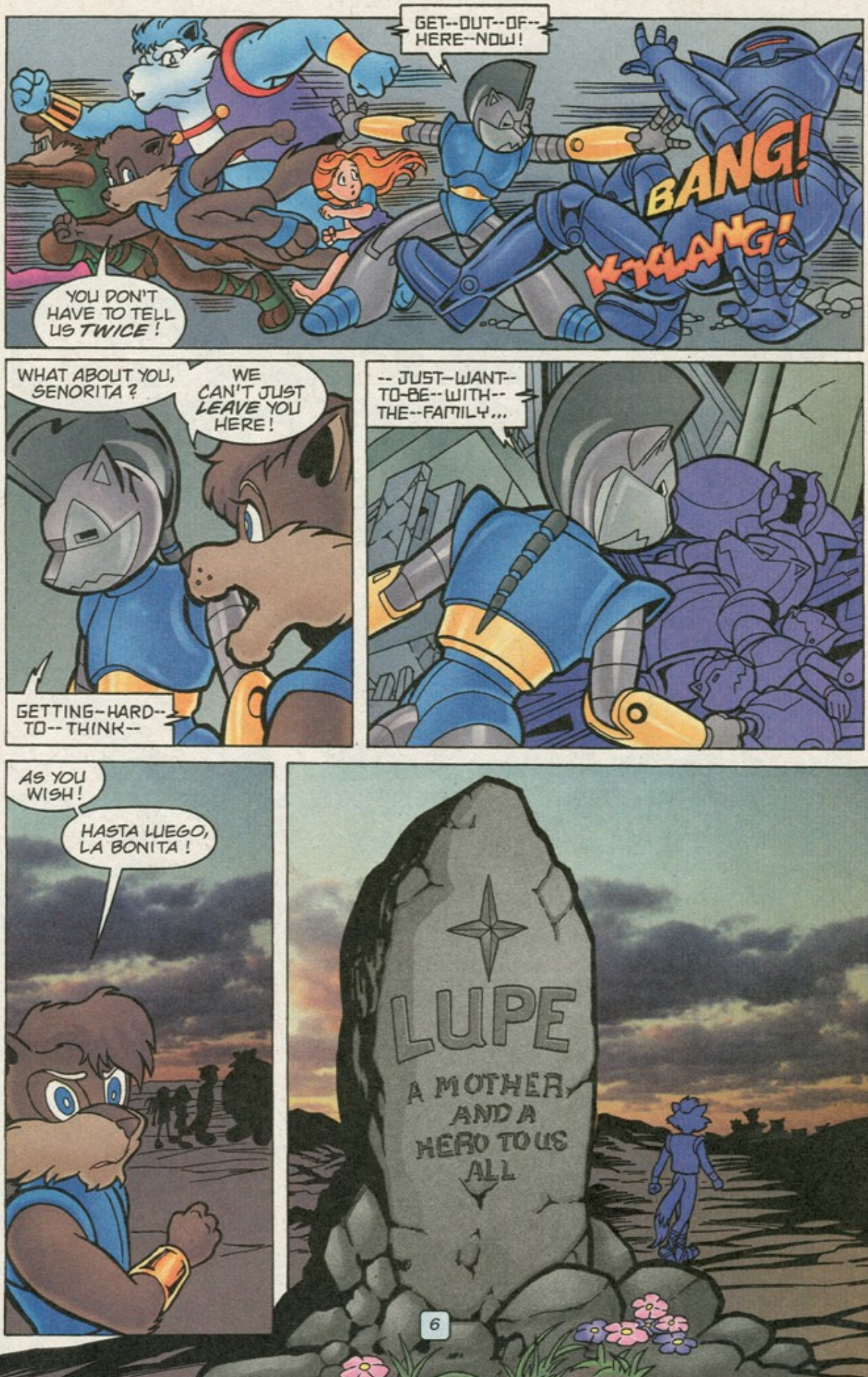
THEY'RE NOT SWAT-BOTS!!
IT'S LOBO!! AND MARCOS AND MARIA --MY CHILDREN!!!

WHAT HAPPENED? WHO DID THIS TO YOU?!!

I THOUGHT IT OBVIOUS AS TO WHAT HAPPENED!
AS FOR WHO--

--IT WAS ME!
UNCLE CHUCK!!
YOU DID THIS?!! YOU WERE WITH PRINCESS SALLY AND SONIC THE LAST TIME I SAW YOU!
OH, COME NOW, WOMAN! YOU THINK A TRUSTED LIEUTENANT OF THE GREAT DOCTOR ROBOTNIK WOULD ASSOCIATE WITH RABBLE ROUSERS SUCH AS THEY?!
YOU'RE GOING TO RESTORE MY HUSBAND AND CHILDREN OR ELSE, YOU--!!!!
EASY, SENORITA! DON'T GIVE HIM THE SATISFACTION!
IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T BEEN PAYING ATTENTION, YOU'RE NOT THE ONE IN CONTROL HERE--
--I AM!
AND IF YOU AND YOUR COMPANIONS DON'T DO AS YOU'RE TOLD, I'LL HAVE THESE TWO BEHIND ME TURNED INTO SO MUCH SCRAP METAL!
DO WE UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER?
YES, WE DO!
WHAT IS IT YOU WANT?
THAT'S MUCH BETTER!
IF YOU'LL JUST STEP RIGHT THIS WAY--

--AND INTO THAT ROBOTICIZER, WE CAN GET THIS OVER WITH AS PAINLESSLY AS POSSIBLE!
I HOPE YOU CAN LIVE WITH YOURSELF, YOU MONSTER!
I'M NOT A MONSTER, MY FAIR LUPE!
I'M ONLY A SMALL PART OF THE NEW WORLD ORDER!
ON MY COMMAND, LOBO--
--ACTIVATE THE ROBOTICIZER!
K-KLICK!
BREEEEP BZZBZZBZZ
RRRRRMMMMMMMM
NO!
OH, LUPE!
SEE? THAT WASN'T TOO BAD, WAS IT?
YOU MAY STEP OFF THE PLATFORM NOW!
WHAAAT?!!
SOMETHING'S GONE WRONG!!!
KRAAAKSH!


GET--OUT--OF--HERE--NOW!
BANG!
KYALANG!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL US TWICE!
WHAT ABOUT YOU, SENORITA?
WE CAN'T JUST LEAVE YOU HERE!
GETTING--HARD--TO--THINK--
--JUST--WANT--TO-BE--WITH--THE--FAMILY...
AS YOU WISH!
HASTA LUEGO, LA BONITA!
LUPE
A MOTHER AND A HERO TO US ALL

BUNNIE RAB-BOT -IN- UPGRADE

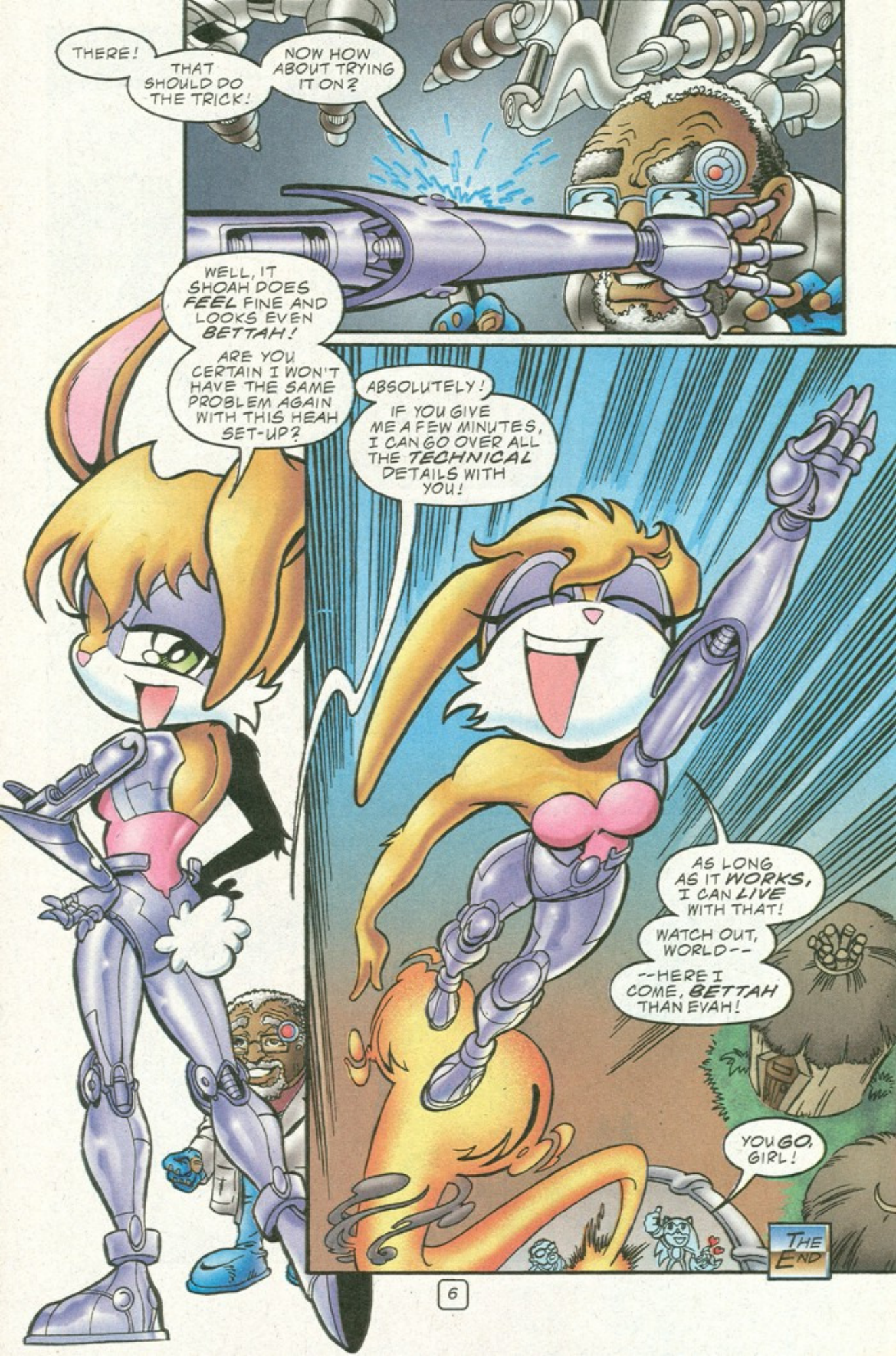
HER LIFE SIGNS ARE FINALLY STABILIZING, DOCTOR!
RESPIRATION, HEART-BEAT AND BRAINWAVES ARE JUST ABOUT NOMINAL FOR SOMEONE IN HER STATE!
YEAH, BUT HER METABOLISM IS STILL HAYWIRE!
HER BIONICS AND NERVOUS SYSTEM ARE HAVING A HECKUVA COMPATIBILITY GAP!
CLOSE HER UP! WE'VE DONE ALL WE CAN AT THE MOMENT!
THE NEXT DECISION--

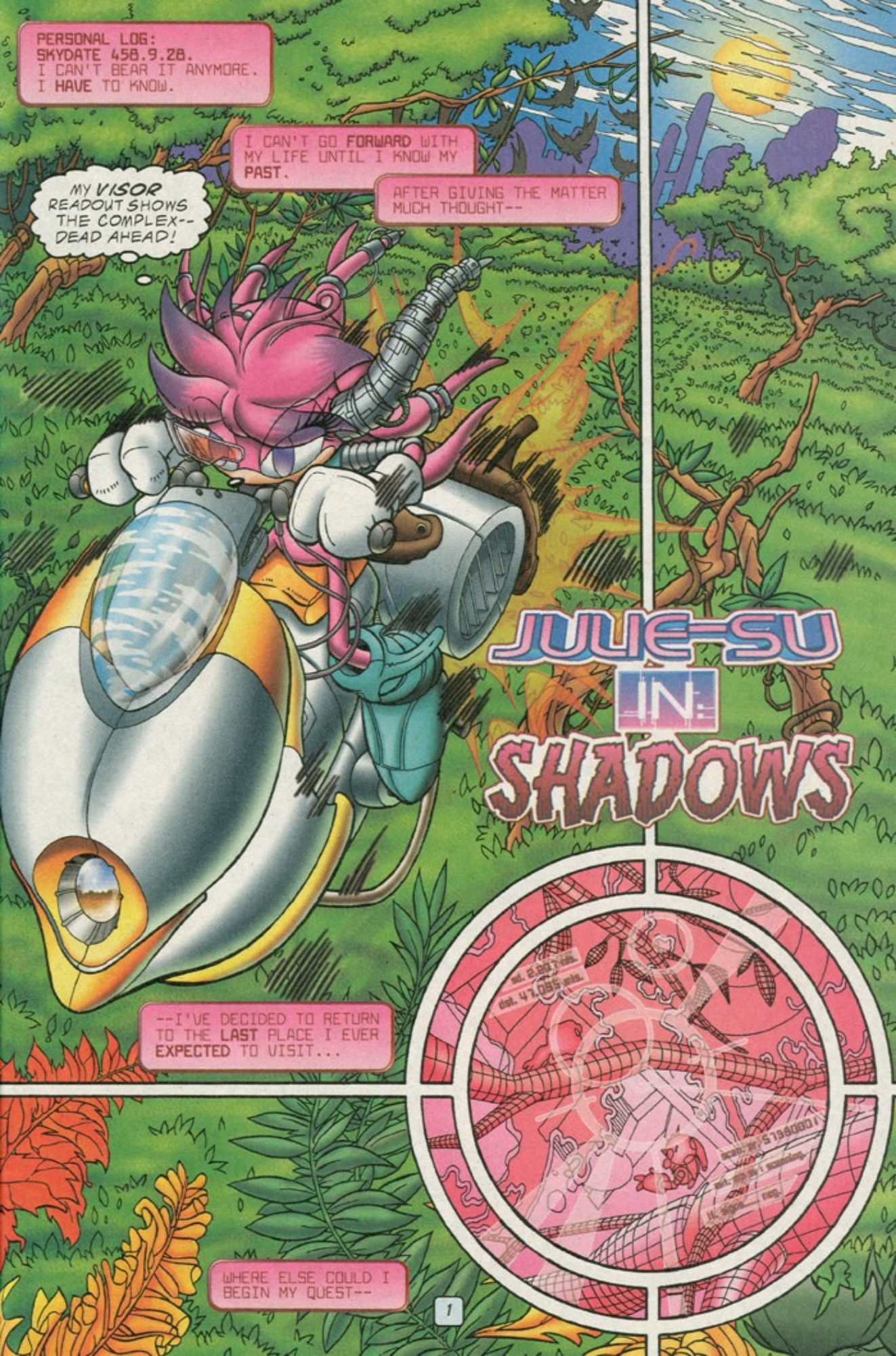
"--IS HERS!"
BUNNIE!!
WHAT IS WRONG, MA CHERIE?
SUGAR-TWAN, I'M --GETTING-- DIZZY--
--CAN'T --HOLD --UHH...
MA CHERIE!
SHE NEEDS A DOCTAIRE!
WHUUM
...AND SHE COLLAPSED JUST LIKE ZAT!
WE'LL TAKE GOOD CARE OF HER, LAD!
NOW JUST HANG HERE--
--WHILE WE PREPARE HER FOR SURGERY!
SLAM
SURGERY?!
I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING QUITE LIKE HER BEFORE!
UNTIL I GET THE LAB REPORTS BACK, THE BEST THING I CAN PRE-SCRIBE FOR HER--

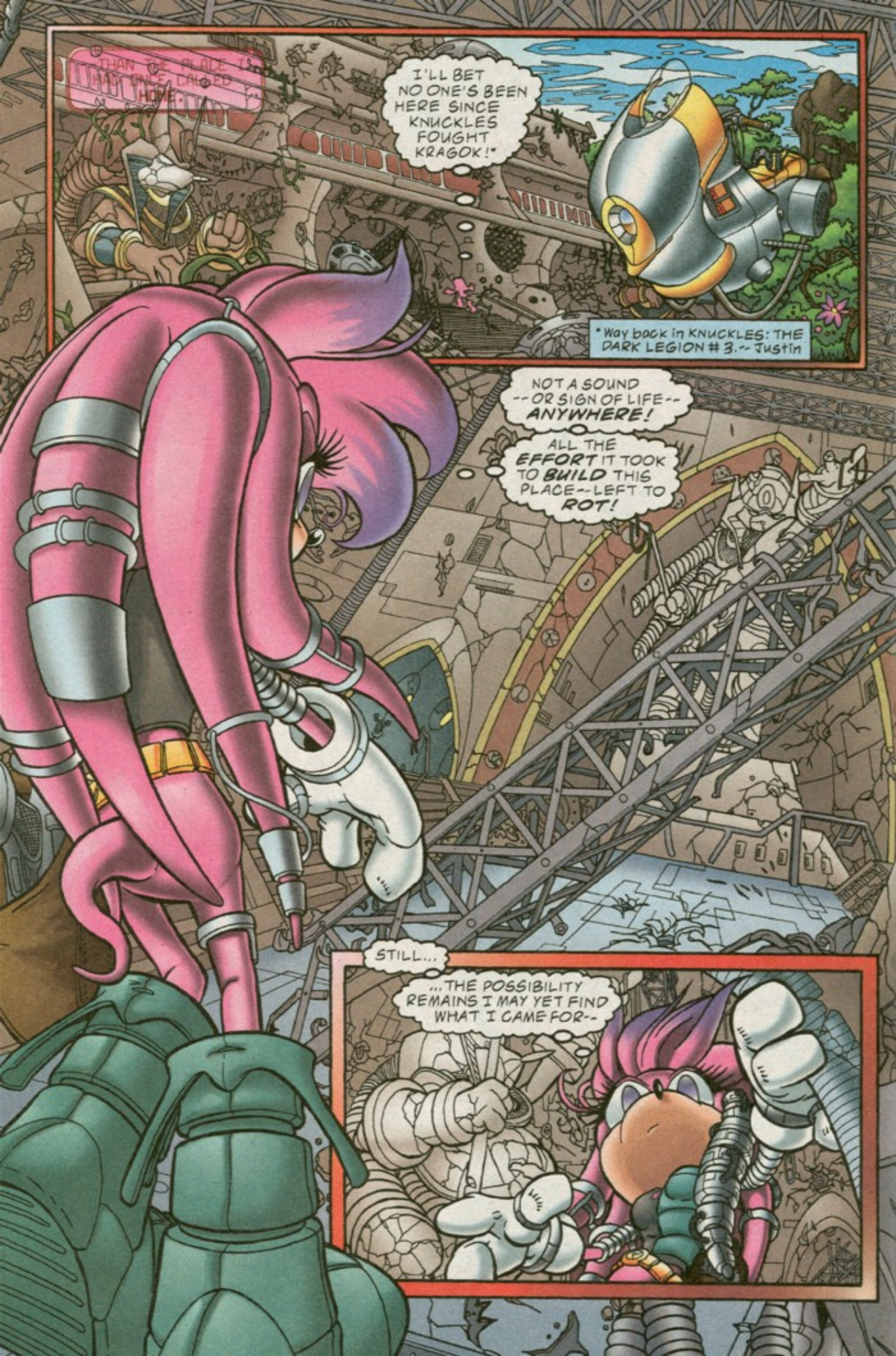
"--IS REST!"
WE CAME AS SOON AS WE GOT WORD, KIDDO!
YOU GAVE US QUITE THE SCARE!
IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO FOR YOU, BUNNIE?
I FEEL LIKE A DOZEN SWAT-BOTS ALL PILED ON TOP OF ME, PRINCESS!
BUT I'LL BE RIGHT FINE IN NO TIME!
WHAT IS THIS? MOBIUS GRAND CENTRAL STATION?
EVERYONE CLEAR OUT-- EXCEPT MY PATIENT, NATURALLY!
DON'T LET 'IM SCARE YA, GUYS!
HIS BARK IS ACTUALLY WORSE THAN HIS BEAK!
MAYBE SO--BUT HE OUTRANKS US HERE!
I'LL BE OUTSIDE JUST IN CASE, MA CHERIE!
OKAY, DOC! I'M A BIG GIRL! GIVE IT TO ME STRAIGHT!
WHAT HAPPENED TO ME?
WHAT HAPPENED YOUNG LADY?
I'M AMAZED WHAT HAPPENED, DIDN'T HAPPEN LONG BEFORE THIS!

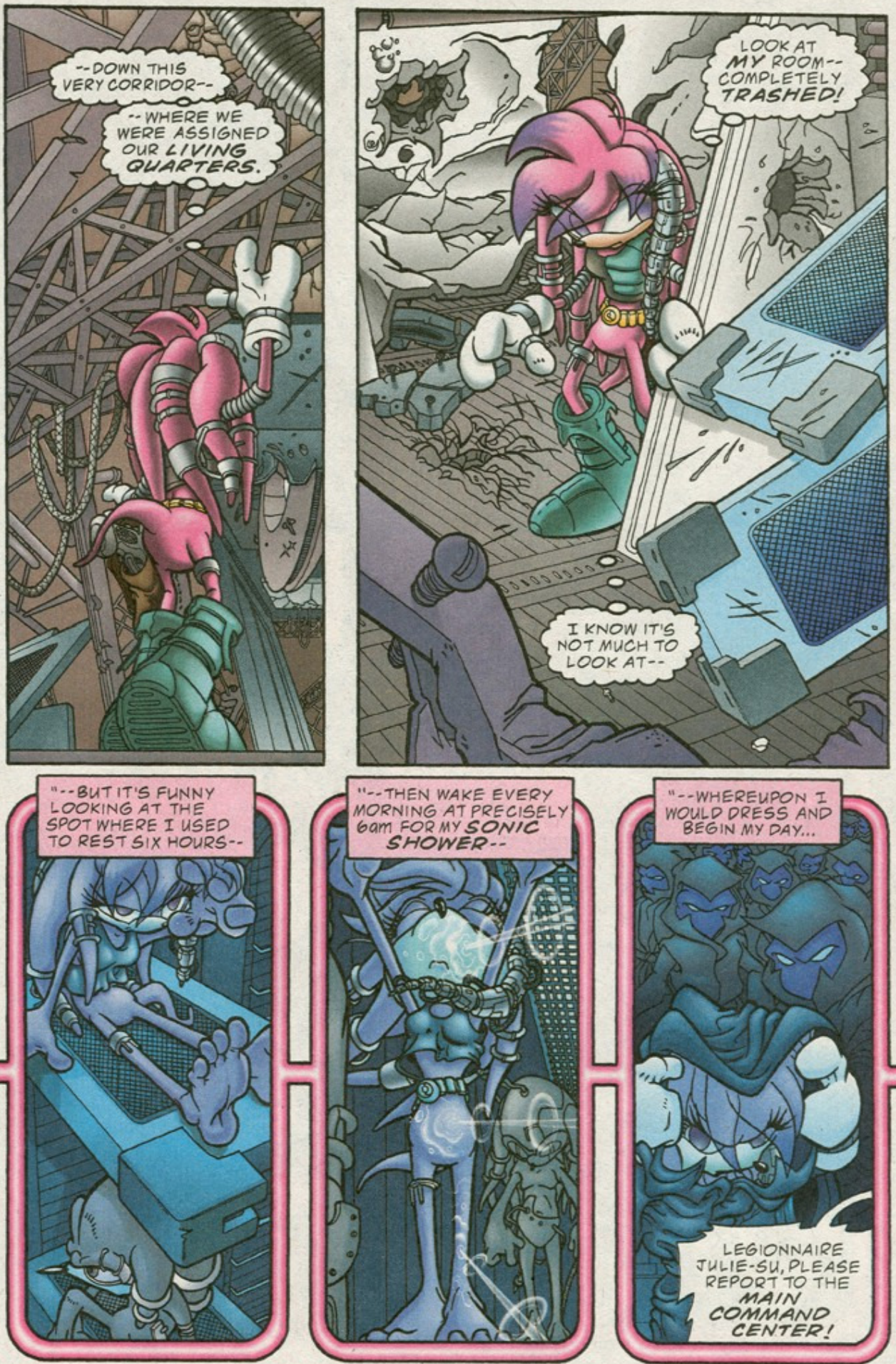
IN A NUTSHELL, YOU HAVE CONFLICTING OPERATING SYSTEMS!
YOUR BIONICS NO LONGER WORK RELIABLY WITH YOUR CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM!
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN? THAT I'LL NO LONGER WALK?
OR BE ABLE TO LIFT THINGS WITH MY HAND?
I'M AFRAID IT'S WORSE THAN THAT, BUNNIE!
AS YOUR BIONICS CONTINUE TO DETERIORATE, EVENTUALLY THEY'LL SHUT DOWN AND BECOME TOXIC TO THE ORGANIC PART OF YOUR BODY!
FROM WHAT WE CAN TELL FROM THE TESTS, IT'S AS IF YOUR BODY WAS AT WAR WITH ITSELF, DETERMINED TO BE EITHER ALL-ORGANIC OR ALL-ROBOTIC!
DOES THAT MEAN I'M GOING TO--TO--
--DIE?
IF WE DO NOTHING THAT'S CERTAINLY A PROBABILITY!
SO WHAT ARE MY OPTIONS, DOC?
YOU ONLY HAVE THREE OTHER ALTERNATIVES TO CHOOSE FROM:
DISCONNECT YOUR ROBOTIC LIMBS FROM YOUR BODY, A HARDWARE UPGRADE WITH NO POSSIBILITY OF EVER BEING DE-ROBOTICIZED...
...OR CHANCING A DEROBOTIZATION PROCESS, AFTER ALL THE MODIFICATIONS, WHERE THE ODDS OF YOUR SURVIVAL ARE A BILLION-TO-ONE!
WHAT WOULD YOU DO, DOC, IF YOU WERE ME?
THAT DEPENDS ON WHICH ANSWER I COULD LIVE WITH THE REST OF MY LIFE!
THAT'S A GOOD ONE, DOC!
I'LL HAVE TO GET BACK TO YOU ON THAT!

SOB
BUNNIE?
SUGAH-TWAN!
I CAME TO ZEE IF THERE WAS ANY-ZING I COULD DO FOR YOU, MY LOVE!
DO YOU THINK YOU COULD STILL LOVE ME IF I REMAINED LIKE I AM FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE?
MY DEAREST SWEET BUNNIE--
--I WOULD LOVE YOU NO MATTER WHAT--
--AS LONG AS WE FACED EACH DAY TOGETHAIRE!
OH, SUGAH-TWAN!
YOU'RE THE BEST FRIEND I EVAH HAD!


THERE!
THAT SHOULD DO THE TRICK!
NOW HOW ABOUT TRYING IT ON?
WELL, IT SHOAH DOES FEEL FINE AND LOOKS EVEN BETTAH!
ARE YOU CERTAIN I WON'T HAVE THE SAME PROBLEM AGAIN WITH THIS HEAH SET-UP?
ABSOLUTELY!
IF YOU GIVE ME A FEW MINUTES, I CAN GO OVER ALL THE TECHNICAL DETAILS WITH YOU!
AS LONG AS IT WORKS, I CAN LIVE WITH THAT!
WATCH OUT, WORLD--
--HERE I COME, BETTAH THAN EVAH!
YOU GO, GIRL!
THE END


PERSONAL LOG:
SKYDATE 458.9.28.
I CAN'T BEAR IT ANYMORE.
I HAVE TO KNOW.
I CAN'T GO FORWARD WITH MY LIFE UNTIL I KNOW MY PAST.
AFTER GIVING THE MATTER MUCH THOUGHT--
MY VISOR READOUT SHOWS THE COMPLEX-- DEAD AHEAD!
JULIE-SU IN SHADOWS
--I'VE DECIDED TO RETURN TO THE LAST PLACE I EVER EXPECTED TO VISIT...
WHERE ELSE COULD I BEGIN MY QUEST--
1


I'LL BET NO ONE'S BEEN HERE SINCE KNUCKLES FOUGHT KRAGOK!*
*Way back in KNUCKLES: THE DARK LEGION #3.-- Justin
NOT A SOUND --OR SIGN OF LIFE-- ANYWHERE!
ALL THE EFFORT IT TOOK TO BUILD THIS PLACE--LEFT TO ROT!
STILL...
...THE POSSIBILITY REMAINS I MAY YET FIND WHAT I CAME FOR--

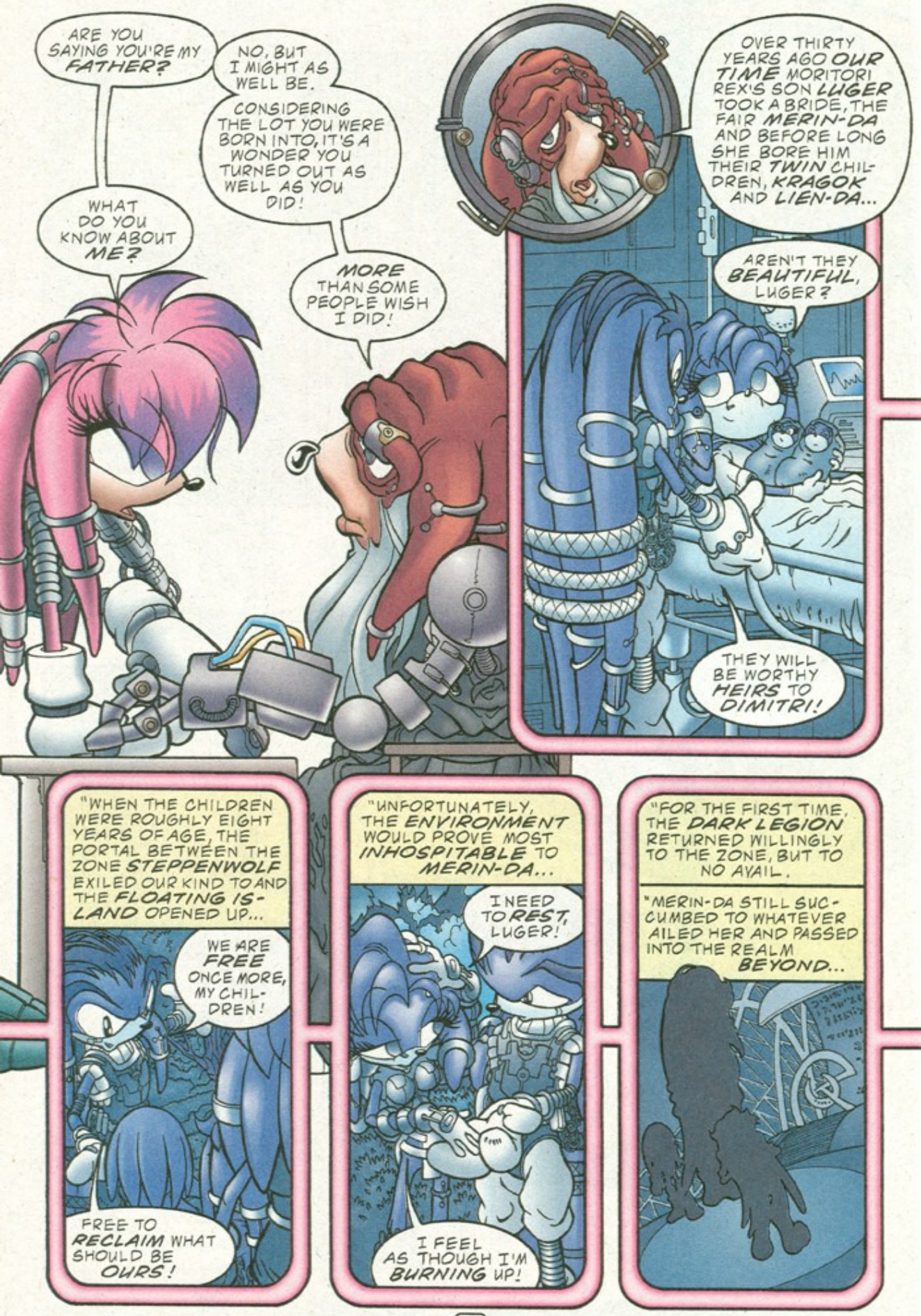

--DOWN THIS VERY CORRIDOR--
--WHERE WE WERE ASSIGNED OUR LIVING QUARTERS.
LOOK AT MY ROOM-- COMPLETELY TRASHED!
I KNOW IT'S NOT MUCH TO LOOK AT--
"--BUT IT'S FUNNY LOOKING AT THE SPOT WHERE I USED TO REST SIX HOURS--
"--THEN WAKE EVERY MORNING AT PRECISELY 6am FOR MY SONIC SHOWER--
"--WHEREUPON I WOULD DRESS AND BEGIN MY DAY...
LEGIONNAIRE JULIE-SU, PLEASE REPORT TO THE MAIN COMMAND CENTER!

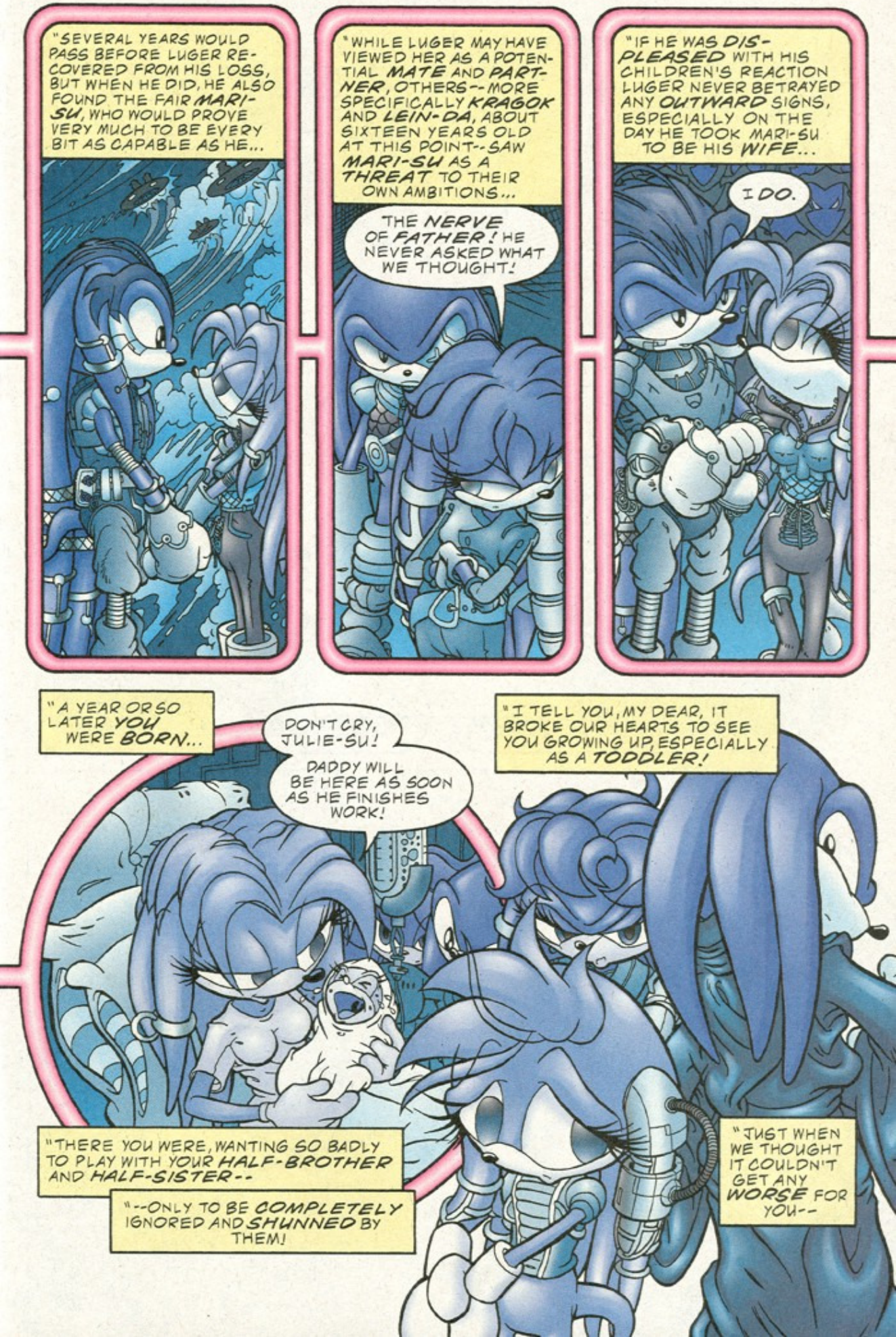
LEGIONNAIRE JULIE-SU REPORTING AS ORDERED, SIR!
TAKE OVER AT NAVIGATION, LEGIONNAIRE!
AS YOU COMMAND!
"FOR SOME REASON, I ALWAYS FELT LIKE KRAGOK AND HIS SECOND-IN-COMMAND, WHO EVERYONE REFERRED TO AS KOMMISSAR, WERE CONSTANTLY WATCHING ME!
"WHATEVER THEIR REASONS FOR DOING SO, I NEVER LEARNED..."
WE'D HAVE BEEN BETTER OFF IF FATHER HAD SIMPLY JETTISONED HER OUT OF AN AIRLOCK YEARS AGO!
FHHUUUUMMM
HOLD IT! THAT SOUNDED LIKE A DOOR SLIDING OPEN!
COULD SOMEONE ELSE BE LURKING AROUND AS WELL?

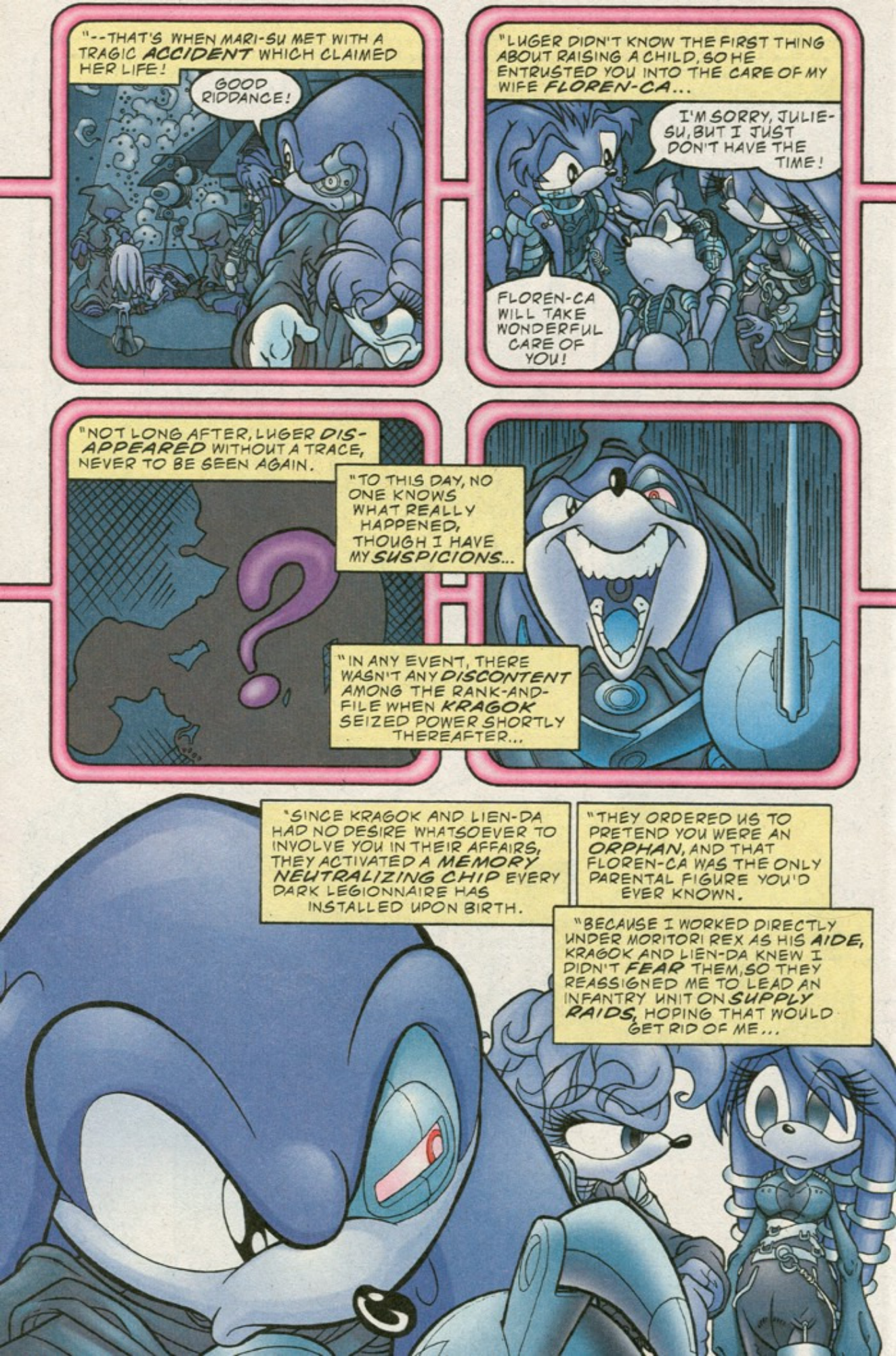
IT SOUNDED LIKE IT CAME FROM UP THERE--PAST THE ARMORY!
"I WAS OUTFITTED WITH MY TASER IN THERE JUST BEFORE KNUCKLES HIT THE SCENE!"
CONSIDERING I SHOULD BE THE ONLY ONE HERE, A PRECAUTION OR TWO SHOULDN'T HURT!
WELL, I'LL BE--
FOOTSTEPS COMING FROM DOWN THIS CORRIDOR!
NOT TO MENTION A LIGHT--
--COMING FROM IN THERE!

SOMEONE IS HERE, ALL RIGHT!
I CAN HEAR WHOEVER IT IS RUMMAGING AROUND INSIDE THAT OFFICE!
WRRRP
OH NO!
I ACTIVATED THE SECURITY SHIELD!
WOOF!
WHAM
NOTHING LIKE GETTING THE STUFFING SLAMMED OUT OF YOU!
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!
WHO ARE YOU? WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?
JULIE-SU?

YOU DON'T REMEMBER ME, DO YOU, CHILD? MY NAME IS SIMON!
Ahh, I'M NOT SURPRISED, AS I DIDN'T HAVE AS MUCH CONTACT WITH YOU AS MY DARLING FLOREN-CA!
KRAGOK SAW TO THAT!
YOU KNOW ME?
EVER SINCE YOU WERE BUT AN INFANT!
ONCE WE LEARNED YOU HAD RETURNED, FLOREN-CA AND I WANTED TO MAKE CONTACT!
SHE MISSES YOU SO VERY MUCH, MY DEAR!
HOW DO I KNOW YOU'RE TELLING THE TRUTH?
A FAIR QUESTION AND WELL DESERVED!
HEAVEN KNOWS WE ECHIDNAS ARE A PRIVATE PEOPLE, NOT EASILY GIVEN TO DISCUSS PERSONAL MATTERS WITH OTHERS.
WE WANT NOTHING, CHILD, EXCEPT TO COMMUNICATE WITH SHE WHOM WE RAISED AS IF SHE WERE OUR OWN DAUGHTER!
DAUGHTER?


ARE YOU SAYING YOU'RE MY FATHER?
NO, BUT I MIGHT AS WELL BE.
CONSIDERING THE LOT YOU WERE BORN INTO, IT'S A WONDER YOU TURNED OUT AS WELL AS YOU DID!
WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT ME?
MORE THAN SOME PEOPLE WISH I DID!
OVER THIRTY YEARS AGO OUR TIME MORITORI REX'S SON LUGER TOOK A BRIDE, THE FAIR MERIN-DA AND BEFORE LONG SHE BORE HIM THEIR TWIN CHILDREN, KRAGOK AND LIEN-DA...
AREN'T THEY BEAUTIFUL, LUGER?
THEY WILL BE WORTHY HEIRS TO DIMITRI!
"WHEN THE CHILDREN WERE ROUGHLY EIGHT YEARS OF AGE, THE PORTAL BETWEEN THE ZONE STEPPENWOLF EXILED OUR KIND TO AND THE FLOATING ISLAND OPENED UP...
WE ARE FREE ONCE MORE, MY CHILDREN!
FREE TO RECLAIM WHAT SHOULD BE OURS!
"UNFORTUNATELY, THE ENVIRONMENT WOULD PROVE MOST INHOSPITABLE TO MERIN-DA...
I NEED TO REST, LUGER!
I FEEL AS THOUGH I'M BURNING UP!
"FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE DARK LEGION RETURNED WILLINGLY TO THE ZONE, BUT TO NO AVAIL.
"MERIN-DA STILL SUCCUMBED TO WHATEVER AILED HER AND PASSED INTO THE REALM BEYOND...

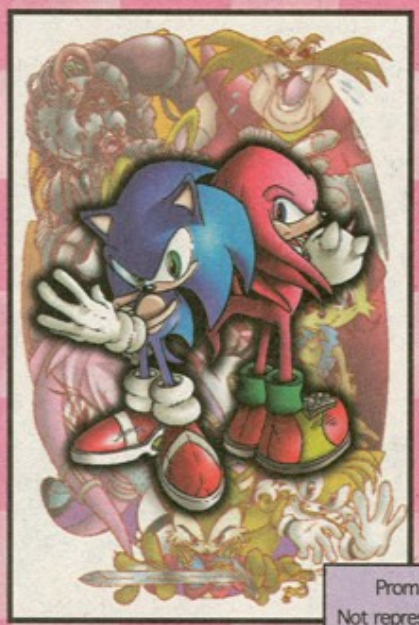

"SEVERAL YEARS WOULD PASS BEFORE LUGER RECOVERED FROM HIS LOSS, BUT WHEN HE DID, HE ALSO FOUND THE FAIR MARI-SU, WHO WOULD PROVE VERY MUCH TO BE EVERY BIT AS CAPABLE AS HE...
"WHILE LUGER MAY HAVE VIEWED HER AS A POTENTIAL MATE AND PARTNER, OTHERS--MORE SPECIFICALLY KRAGOK AND LEIN-DA, ABOUT SIXTEEN YEARS OLD AT THIS POINT--SAW MARI-SU AS A THREAT TO THEIR OWN AMBITIONS...
THE NERVE OF FATHER! HE NEVER ASKED WHAT WE THOUGHT!
"IF HE WAS DISPLEASED WITH HIS CHILDREN'S REACTION LUGER NEVER BETRAYED ANY OUTWARD SIGNS, ESPECIALLY ON THE DAY HE TOOK MARI-SU TO BE HIS WIFE...
I DO.
"A YEAR OR SO LATER YOU WERE BORN...
DON'T CRY, JULIE-SU!
DADDY WILL BE HERE AS SOON AS HE FINISHES WORK!
"I TELL YOU, MY DEAR, IT BROKE OUR HEARTS TO SEE YOU GROWING UP, ESPECIALLY AS A TODDLER!
"THERE YOU WERE, WANTING SO BADLY TO PLAY WITH YOUR HALF-BROTHER AND HALF-SISTER--
"--ONLY TO BE COMPLETELY IGNORED AND SHUNNED BY THEM!
"JUST WHEN WE THOUGHT IT COULDN'T GET ANY WORSE FOR YOU--


"--THAT'S WHEN MARI-SU MET WITH A TRAGIC ACCIDENT WHICH CLAIMED HER LIFE!
GOOD RIDDANCE!
"LUGER DIDN'T KNOW THE FIRST THING ABOUT RAISING A CHILD, SO HE ENTRUSTED YOU INTO THE CARE OF MY WIFE FLOREN-CA...
I'M SORRY, JULIE-SU, BUT I JUST DON'T HAVE THE TIME!
FLOREN-CA WILL TAKE WONDERFUL CARE OF YOU!
"NOT LONG AFTER, LUGER DISAPPEARED WITHOUT A TRACE, NEVER TO BE SEEN AGAIN.
"TO THIS DAY, NO ONE KNOWS WHAT REALLY HAPPENED, THOUGH I HAVE MY SUSPICIONS...
"IN ANY EVENT, THERE WASN'T ANY DISCONTENT AMONG THE RANK-AND-FILE WHEN KRAGOK SEIZED POWER SHORTLY THEREAFTER...
"SINCE KRAGOK AND LIEN-DA HAD NO DESIRE WHATSOEVER TO INVOLVE YOU IN THEIR AFFAIRS, THEY ACTIVATED A MEMORY NEUTRALIZING CHIP EVERY DARK LEGIONNAIRE HAS INSTALLED UPON BIRTH.
"THEY ORDERED US TO PRETEND YOU WERE AN ORPHAN, AND THAT FLOREN-CA WAS THE ONLY PARENTAL FIGURE YOU'D EVER KNOWN.
"BECAUSE I WORKED DIRECTLY UNDER MORITORI REX AS HIS AIDE, KRAGOK AND LIEN-DA KNEW I DIDN'T FEAR THEM, SO THEY REASSIGNED ME TO LEAD AN INFANTRY UNIT ON SUPPLY RAIDS, HOPING THAT WOULD GET RID OF ME...

EVEN THAT WASN'T ENOUGH! EVENTUALLY, THEY TOOK YOU AWAY FROM FLOREN-CA!
SHE TOOK CARE OF YOU FOR ALMOST EIGHT YEARS! AND YOU BECAME THE DAUGHTER WE NEVER HAD!
SO WHY DON'T I REMEMBER ANY OF THIS? ESPECIALLY FLOREN-CA?
WE FIGURED KRAGOK AND LIEN-DA MUST HAVE PERFORMED A MIND-WIPE ON YOU!
WHEN WE DISCOVERED YOU WERE ALIVE AND WELL, I CAME HERE TO GATHER EVIDENCE FOR YOUR BENEFIT!
IF YOU REALLY WERE WITH THE LEGION YOU'D HAVE KNOWN I WAS ALWAYS AROUND!
SHORTLY AFTER THEY'D TAKEN YOU, THE PORTAL OPENED AGAIN.
THAT'S WHEN I MADE THE DECISION TO TAKE FLOREN-CA AND SETTLE ON THE FLOATING ISLAND!
SO WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?
LET'S GO HOME, CHILD!
I KNOW SOMEONE WHO WOULD DEARLY LOVE TO SEE YOU!
WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?
LET'S GO!
A BEGINNING

SONIC GRAMS SPECIAL

OFF PANEL By Gallagher, Manak & Harvo



Promotional illustration.
Not representative of the cover.

The upcoming "SONIC ADVENTURE' storyline on sale late November continuing well into the year 2000. It is so huge that it's taking multiple issues of SONIC THE HEDGEHOG and one 48-page SONIC SUPER SPECIAL (#14) to tell the story. All that, my friends, is for the official game adaptation to 'SONIC ADVENTURE!' As you know from all the commercials by now, this game can only be played on one new system: SEGA's DREAMCAST -- "the ultimate gaming machine" -- debuting on 9/9/99! This high-speed thrill ride sets Sonic loose in a fantastic new 3-D adventure at speeds of up to 60 frames per second! With breathtaking graphics, six playable characters, full 360 degree movement in expansive 3-D worlds (and even "mini-games" to discover), 'SONIC ADVENTURE' shows gamers the future of videogames today, using the power of SEGA Dreamcast.

Next issue: We promised to print the Comic Shop News storyline... and here it is in a special sideways story (you'll see). Buy SONIC SUPER SPECIAL #13 on sale January 2000!

Catch you on the flip side!

Note: Due to the overwhelming amount of e-mail and snail mail, it is impossible for us to reply personally to each and every message. However, your opinions are important to us and each message will be read. Also, due to space limitations, some correspondence may be edited. Thanks for understanding!

Send letters to:

SONIC-GRAMS SPECIAL #11

c/o Archie Comics Publications, Inc. P.O. Box #419 Mamaroneck, NY 10543-0419

e-mail address: jfreddyg@archiecomics.com

website: www.archiecomics.com sega website: www.sega.com

First order of business... as promised in SONIC SUPER SPECIAL #9 (SONIC KIDS 2), the following are the names of the first ten people to reply correctly to the first trivia question: "When was the first time we saw Sonic by the well?" The answer: SONIC THE HEDGEHOG Limited Series #0. They are:

Mary Ann Rosales
Jennifer Lantrip
Donald "Cinos" Eckels
Brian Jackowshi
Kurt Jagielow
Valerie & Victoria Venture
Laura "Knuckles" Carden (age 12)
Samuel Turner (age 16)
Garrett Shumilinski
Devon S. Higley (age 16)

Thanks, True Blue Sonic Crew!

And now a special mention to the first five who answered our second trivia question: "When will Sally kick Knuckles like that again?" The answer: "MECHA MADNESS #1" They are:

Brennan E. Doud (age 13)
Jeremy Pesner
Jon-Erik Johnson
Sergio Ortiz
Chris Monteparo

Thanks to everyone who wrote in and now your letters:

Dear Sonic-Grams,

I just finished reading my copy of SONIC SUPER SPECIAL #9. Great job! This one is even better than SONIC SUPER SPECIAL #5! The first story, "Zoneward Bound," was quite good. Sam Maxwell and Harvo make a great team! The artwork: awesome! The second story, "My Secret Guardian," was such a lovely story. Galan's work is always a pleasure to behold. The third and last story, "Eve of Destruction," made me sad at the end but it was great. Art Mawhinney is a very good artist. I'd love it if other Sonic fans, boys and girls, would write to me so please print my full address:

T.S.T. "Dema" (age 15)
Laugavegur 76
101 Reykjavik
ICELAND - ISLAND

Thanks, Dema, for your letter. It's great to know our international fans are enjoying America's comic book version of Sonic much like our stateside fans.

Dear Sonic-Grams,

I just got SONIC SUPER SPECIAL #9 and it was cool! I just loved Manny Galan and Jim Amash's art. In fact, everyone who worked on it did an excellent job. Two questions: 1) Does Tails know his father was roboticized? 2) Is Sonic going to meet Dimitri? On a final note: I think Sonic and his friends kick butt! No way is he out of his prime!

Laurie Lemaire (age 16)
Haileybury, Ontario
CANADA

1) Tails knows only the generalities not the details about what happened to his parents. 2) Check out SONIC SUPER SPECIAL #12 for that one.

Dear Sonic Column,

Is there a new Sonic The Hedgehog cartoon coming out? Oh, and about SPAZ!... he is the way-past coolest artist.

Cat
Catlin 117@aol.com

The new cartoon is "Sonic Underground." Those characters showed up last issue.

Well, that's all for now. Thanks to everyone who wrote in so until next issue...

Keep it real!

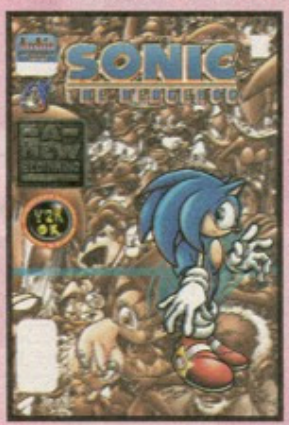
Cover by Patrick Spaziante and Harvey Mercadoocasio. Colors and separations by Josh D. Ray.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

In one week: In the continuation of the story called "King of the Hill," Knuckles and his childhood bully, Monk, duke it out when a mysterious overlander named Hunter decides to target them both for his collection. Action and intrigue as brought to you by Ken Penders and Harvo. Also, Part Two of the 'Espio The Chameleon' solo story by Ken Penders, with art by Colleen Doran and Andrew Pepoy.

KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA #31 on sale mid-Oct. 1999!

In two weeks: A new logo, a new trade dress, a new story direction! A special ceremony is conducted for our blue hero and the entire village of Knothole are out in their Sunday best for it! Look out for "A New Beginning" in the next exciting installment of Sonic The Hedgehog! This special story is brought to you by the talents of Karl Bollers, FRY and Andrew Pepoy. Also in this issue: The conclusion of "Tales of the Great War!"



SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #78 on sale late Oct. 1999!